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The Highlander

Thursday Aug 7 2025 | Issue 701

INSIDE: WILBERFORCE FAIR THIS WEEKEND PAGE 21

FREE

Up up and away

Jamie and Lucy Paterson take a hot air balloon ride at Haliburton Rotary Summerfest Aug. 6 in Head Lake Park. See more photos on page 13.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

County under total fire ban

By Mike Baker

A total fire ban has been implemented across Haliburton County, with regional fire coordinator Michael French saying conditions locally "have advanced to the extreme… and it's only going to get worse."

The ban came into effect noon Aug. 5 and includes the townships of Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills. French said this means no outdoor burning is allowed at any time, day or night.

"We're telling people there should be no open flames. That means no campfires or fireworks… torches and the lighting of charcoal barbecues, as well as any other light sources that use an open flame, are prohibited," French said.

Cooking fires are also banned, though propane and gas-powered barbecues are allowed.

French, who heads up the fire department in Algonquin Highlands, said the decision was made following discussions between the County's four fire chiefs and officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). He said the ministry, which conducts assessments at its Stanhope office, recently advanced conditions to 'extreme'.

"If we did have a fire start, it would be fast-moving and would be considerably hard to control," he said. "We're being proactive… we can't afford [not to be careful]. The way our townships are [geographically], a forest fire would be devastating for us."

He said there haven't been any major fire-related calls over the past couple of weeks, noting that's a result of the daytime burning ban in place across the Highlands. Introduced last year, the new rules prohibit open-air fires between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. from April 1 to Oct. 31.

"That's really helped to control the daytime burning, which gave us a little leniency for calling the total fire ban. In the evenings there's more moisture and humidity, less winds, so we didn't have to be as aggressive.

"We really wanted to hold off as long as we could, but it's at the point now that it's a risk over reward. It's not beneficial," French said.

The ban will remain in place until at least Aug. 12, with the four chiefs meeting next week to re-evaluate conditions. French said there's no significant rain in the area's 10-day forecast, meaning

Continued **'Ban'** on page 2

Highlander news

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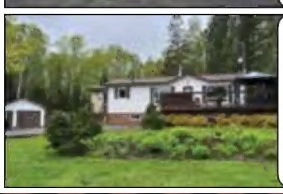

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

A fire ban has been implemented across Haliburton County, effective noon Aug. 5. *File.*

Ban in place until at least August 12

Continued from page 1

conditions are likely "only going to get worse.

"Until we get some very substantial rains, it'll stay in effect," he said.

Anyone caught violating the ban will be issued a minimum $500 fine. French said people will also be billed for any calls due to a prohibited fire. Charges will depend on the number of vehicles and firefighters responding and time spent on-site. He confirmed some people were charged last year.

"People have got to respect the rules, they're put in for a reason," French said.

> *People have got to respect the rules, they're put in for a reason*
> ***Michael French***

Declining air quality

On July 30, Environment Canada issued a special air quality advisement for Haliburton County, with smoke from wildfires in the Prairies in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba impacting conditions across the Highlands.

As of Aug. 5, the County's air quality health index (AQHI) was ranked moderate at five-out-of-10. Most people can continue outdoor activities, but those with heart or breathing problems should monitor for symptoms of smoke exposure, including sore and watery eyes, runny nose and sinus irritation, scratchy throat and mild coughing, and headaches.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) said, when coupled with extreme heat, poor air quality can cause health complications for seniors, pregnant women, young children, and people with pre-existing medical conditions, such as lung disease, asthma, COPD, or cardiovascular disease.

"For these individuals, it is especially important to take precautions to protect your health and wellbeing," the health unit said.

People are advised to create a clean air space at home by keeping windows and doors closed; use an air purifier with a HEPA filter; adjust planned outdoor activities; and consult primary health care providers if symptoms worsen.

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Council says no to Bobcaygeon Road tower

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills councillors, July 31, voted to withhold a statement of concurrence for a cell tower on Bobcaygeon Road, leaving the build in limbo.

The ultimate decision about whether or not a tower is built rests with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), although they do take into account municipal planning input.

The vote went against the recommendation of planner Amanda Dougherty, who said the required public consultation had been completed, and the proposal complied with land use requirements of the official plan and zoning bylaw.

The 70-metre wireless telecommunications tower is proposed for a private property at 830 Bobcaygeon Rd. in a licensed aggregate pit.

In her report, Dougherty said, "a new communications tower would support essential infrastructure objectives by increasing broadband and cellular connectivity and further supporting the economic and socio-economic advantages within the community."

She said it was 1,141 feet from a well-treed road so would be somewhat screened, there are no wetlands in the development area, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has no issues. She noted some concerns were not considered reasonable and relevant, such as the effect on property values or municipal taxes, or health concerns, since they are under Health Canada jurisdiction.

Mayor Bob Carter said, "the scope of local councils are limited. We are involved with making sure that there is compliance with the prescribed consultation process and compliance with the township's land use documents."

However, council heard from residents Sandi Prentice and David and Priscilla Hessel, who asked them not to issue a statement of concurrence.

Prentice said "my house is the same height as the top of the proposed tower. That tower will be eye level to my bedroom window with a blinking red light in my face every night."

She went on to say she had "serious concerns, not just about the tower itself, but the integrity of the public consultation process." She claimed "the process was supposed to inform and involve the community, instead it's been riddled with contradictions, misleading statements, and in some cases outright falsehoods."

The Hessels said they live 500 metres north of the proposed tower. "We and our neighbours don't want a tower. We don't see the need for it and we are concerned about the impact on our property, our health and the environment."

They claimed that "upon finding a landowner willing to host a tower, Rogers/EORN have moved to expedite the public consultation process; the public notice did not include the required information; did not adequately consider alternate sites or co-location options; and does not meet the stated objectives (improving service near Mountain Lake)."

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter says no tower means a continuing cell gap. *File*

Coun. Shirley Johannessen said of 20 impacted properties, 13 are opposed, one undecided, two in favour and four unknown. She said with that level of public opposition, she needed to listen to her constituents.

Carter said he represented all constituents, and if EORN or Rogers does not build the tower, it will result in a continuing cell gap in the area.

EORN communications lead, Lisa Severson told council the cell gap project – and its federal, provincial, and municipal funding – will be done at the end of 2026. She said it takes 12 to 36 months to find appropriate sites and build. "I can't guarantee there would be an alternate site built."

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Highlander news

CUPW rep calls for contract arbitration

By Mike Baker

Doug Ford, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) local 564 in Haliburton County, wasn't surprised to hear that more than two thirds of Canada Post mail workers rejected the Crown corporation's final contract offer last week.

About 55,000 of the Crown corporation's employees have been working without a renewed contract for the past 18 months. Collective agreements for rural carriers expired Dec. 31, 2023, and for urban workers Jan. 31, 2024.

A month-long strike shuttered the country's postal service between Nov. 15 and Dec. 17 last year, before the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) mandated a six-month temporary contract that restored operations. That deal, which carried a five per cent retroactive wage increase to the day after collective agreements expired, ran until May 22.

After negotiations between the two parties yielded little progress through the first half of 2025, federal jobs minister Patty Hajdu indicated she was going to send the issue to arbitration in late-May. However, Canada Post successfully argued it was within its rights to demand workers vote on its most recent offer.

According to CIRB, about 82.8 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot – 43,370 of 53,614 active CUPW members – with 68.5 per cent of urban workers and 69.4 per cent of rural employees turning it down.

"The language that Canada Post has put in the global offers that the public has seen is only part of what's going on – it's all bullet point, there's no actual details in there," Ford told *The Highlander*. "That makes it hard [for people to vote yes] when they don't actually know what they're voting for."

In a statement, Canada Post said the deal contained a 13.59 per cent wage increase over four years; signing bonuses of $500 to $1,000; removal of compulsory overtime for urban workers; and reversal of proposed changes to employee health benefits and pension contributions.

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About 69 per cent of Canada Post mail workers have rejected the Crown corporation's final contract offer. *File.*

There was also a commitment to create new permanent flex positions to fill shifts for weekend delivery – with the Crown corporation saying new services on Saturdays and Sundays are vital to its long-term success.

Ford said those positions are almost exclusively part-time and would replace relief workers already employed by the company.

"When we were told they were going to create a new workforce, that's not exactly true. All they're really doing is getting rid of the pre-workforce we have now and giving them a new name and expanding their duties. It's not really a new category," Ford said.

"Our union is not against weekend delivery. All CUPW wanted was for [the current pre-workforce employees] to get weekend delivery assigned to them, so it would give them meaningful employment. That's been the crux of this from the beginning," he added.

In an Aug. 1 media release, Canada Post said it is "evaluating next steps following [the] vote outcome."

The emailed statement read, "while we are disappointed in the results, we want to thank employees for participating in the process… this result does not lessen the urgent need to modernize and protect this vital national service. However, it does mean the uncertainty that has been significantly impacting our business – and the many Canadians and businesses who depend on Canada Post – will continue."

Since 2018, Canada Post has accumulated over $3.8 billion in losses before taxes. It posted a $1.3 billion loss in 2024.

Company spokesperson Lisa Liu told The Highlander that, over the past two years, Canada Post has seen its share in the country's parcel market drop from almost two-thirds of all deliveries to around 20 per cent.

"As we have not been able to make changes to our delivery model and have been negotiating for more than 20 months without resolution, businesses are choosing parcel delivery companies that provide a more convenient seven-day a week service," Liu said.

Ford maintains workers in Haliburton County don't want another strike but said they're becoming disillusioned by the protracted negotiations.

He feels the next step will be Hadju sending CUPW and Canada Post to arbitration, which will force a new contract.

"I certainly hope she's wise enough to do that… because there's a lot on the line here," he said. "It's clear there isn't a will for a strike… but the longer we go without a contract, who knows."

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• *Of Light and Life*, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 13. The exhibit features over 70 original works, spanning the last 70 years. Copies of Michael's recently published book *Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas* are available for sale in the Gallery. For more information: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2025-07-22-1000-Of-Light-and-Life-A-Solo-Exhibition-by-Michael-Dum

• Join us for the second presentation of the "Community Heritage Series" on Thursday, August 7 at 5:00 pm. Innkeeper Shawn Chamberlin marks the 160th anniversary of the Dominion Hotel with rich stories from its past—featuring a few reported paranormal experiences. Admission is by donation. No pre-registration is required.

• The UnFinished Craft Group (UFOs) will be meeting in the Welch Room on Friday, August 8 from 1 – 3 pm. All are welcome!

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am. Coming up this week: Thursday – Animal Skull Detective, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone at 11 am and butter making at 2 pm, Saturday – paper quilling. For a complete list of August programs: https://www.mindenhills.ca/en/News/media-release-25-82-august-drop-in-programs-and-activities-schedule.aspx

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• August 14 – Regular Council Meeting
• August 28 -Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

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Highlander news

Feds expand national dental care plan

By Mike Baker

Anna Rusak, a health promoter with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) said recent changes to the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) and Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) initiative will improve access to oral services for thousands of Ontarians – including many in the Highlands.

In early June, the federal government announced all remaining adults in Canada aged 18 to 64 are eligible for public coverage through the CDCP. Eligibility is determined by net income, with families earning $90,000 or less encouraged to apply.

Rusak said the program is open to people without their own private dental insurance - through employment or retiree benefits, a family member's plan, or provincial plan. Previously, the program targeted seniors aged 65 and older, children under 18 and adults with a valid disability tax credit certificate.

It helps cover the cost of basic dental care, including regular check-ups, cleanings and treatments to help keep teeth and gums healthy, Rusak said.

HSO provides additional coverage for children and youth 17 and under from low-income households. The program provides funds for youth to visit a licensed dental provider and covers the costs of check-ups, cleaning, fillings, x-rays, scaling, tooth extraction, and emergency care.

To qualify, families with one child must earn $28,523 or lower, with the threshold increasing $2,159 for each additional dependent.

HKPR's Anna Rusak said CDCP expansion will open the door for more people to receive expensive dental treatments at a reduced cost. *File.*

"Good oral health is fundamental to overall wellbeing, and programs like HSO and CDCP play a critical role in making dental care accessible to qualifying children and youth," Rusak said. "With an increasing number of dental providers asking patients to enroll in CDCP, we want to make sure families are aware and prepared. We are here to help them through the process."

Applications can be submitted online. If approved, families will receive a package from insurance provider Sun Life Canada, the company managing the program. It will include a member card, program details and a start date for benefits.

Rusak said it's important to wait until the start date before booking any dental appointments, to avoid any unexpected costs.

Not all dentists accept patients through CDCP – an online app shows two offices in Haliburton County are signed up, Smolen Dentistry and Dr. David Butera Family and Cosmetic Dentistry, both located in Haliburton village. There are also options in Bracebridge and Bobcaygeon.

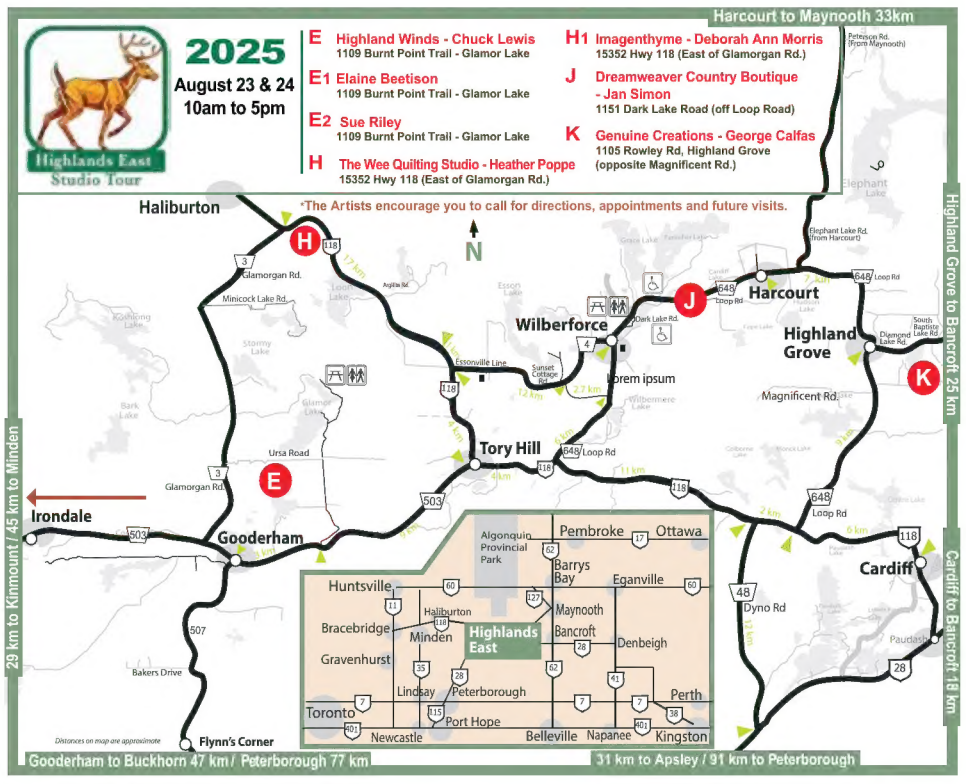
Rusak said patients should call ahead to check if there are any extra fees beyond what CDCP covers. She said families should never pay the full cost upfront, as Sun Life will not reimburse patients directly.

Families must meet the eligibility requirements each year to qualify – qualifying once does not ensure lifetime coverage.

The federal government said it expects the CDCP expansion to improve access to dental services to around five million Canadians. As of May, four million people had been approved under the previous thresholds.

A survey conducted by the Angus Reid Institute in May, polling 1,500 Canadians, found more than half of respondents, 56 per cent, were delaying health appointments due to cost. Young adults aged 18 to 34 were the most affected with 66 per cent saying they were delaying health care, compared to 58 per cent among those aged 35 to 54. About 47 per cent of respondents aged 55 and older said they also put off dental care due to cost.

To apply, visit www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan/apply.html.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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Steve Lapp, an EV enthusiast, will be in Haliburton to discuss the new wave of technology Aug. 9. *Submitted.*

Pioneer says electric vehicles are 'better in every way'

By Mike Baker

It was the mid-1980s when Steve Lapp was first introduced to the concept of an electric vehicle (EV).

While the first commercial EV, the Tesla Roadster, didn't hit North American roads until 2010, work on the technology stretches back decades. Lapp, who studied solar thermal energy at Queen's University, was part of a small team at a Canadian start-up, Alu Power, that converted a Chrysler minivan into an EV in 1989.

Because the lithium-ion technology used today didn't exist yet, the team transitioned the vehicle using an aluminum air fuel cell. Lapp, who will be in Haliburton County Aug. 9 for a talk on EVs, said it was capable of travelling about 300 kilometres.

"The technology has improved dramatically since then, with the breakthrough coming in the early 1990s, when the lithium-ion battery became commercially viable," Lapp said.

Originally designed for cell phones and laptops, the units are now used to power about 70 different EV models in Canada, Lapp said.

Before that, companies utilized aluminum, lead-acid and sodium-sulfur batteries for EVs. General Motors released the EV1 in 1996. The company built thousands, but rather than sell they opted to lease. Interest in the small two-seater, which had a low range of travel of less than 200 kilometres on a full charge, was limited and it was quickly discontinued.

It's a different ballgame today, Lapp said, with most EVs capable of travelling 400 to 500 kilometres on a full charge. Compared to standard vehicles, which utilize internal combustion engines, they're much cheaper to run. Owners can charge vehicles at home for pennies on the dollar, he said.

"Using the low overnight [hydro] rate, it costs something like three cents per kilowatt hour to charge, which is about $2.10 for a full battery," Lapp said. Owning two EVs since 2012, he estimates he's saved well over $10,000 in gas alone. There's been another five-figure savings on oil changes – not required with EVs.

Lapp said recent studies indicate EVs pay off their energy debt for climate change emissions within two years.

"Other than the energy it takes to make them, EVs don't have much carbon dioxide emissions attached to them… the only thing that's restrictive is the distance you can travel, otherwise they're better than standard vehicles in every way," Lapp said. "They cost less to operate, they're quieter, and they aren't contributing to climate change."

He noted global sales are increasing 20 to 25 per cent annually, pegging the number of EVs actively on the road at around 60 million. Combined, manufacturers are producing about 20 million EVs per year. About 17 million were sold in 2024, including 264,000 in Canada.

During his Environment Haliburton! sponsored talk at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School this weekend, running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lapp said he'll be discussing EV life cycles, costs, and other practical things would-be owners need to know.

With the federal government mandating that 100 per cent of new light-duty vehicle sales be zero-emission by 2035, Lapp said EVs are the future. He says the technology is constantly improving, with weight-reducing long-life super capacitors likely arriving in the next few years, though any new battery enhancements are "probably" 10 years away.

"A new unit will set you back $50,000, but it's probably one of the best investments you can make," Lapp said. "But more than the monetary savings, we all know climate change isn't waiting… it's something we have to address. EVs may have some limitations – they may never go as far, may cost a little more up front than standard vehicles, but that's the social cost of addressing climate change."

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At 160, Dominion has stories to tell

By Susan Tromanhauser

More than 20 years ago, Shawn Chamberlin and his wife Elli purchased the Dominion Hotel in downtown Minden with plans to tear it down. They thought the land could be put to better use as a parking lot to support their restaurant Grill on the Gull. Instead, they discovered the historic icon was a good source of cash flow and they didn't touch a thing – at first.

The more time the couple spent in the place, the more they fell in love with it, realizing it had a story to tell. They spent many evenings sitting, looking and listening until they got their vision for the business. They knew the walls could talk and they wanted to be able to speak for the place. Instead of a tear down, they began renovations. They soon learned the hotel was originally built by local people with, perhaps, less than professional skills. In the Dominion Hotel, nothing is level, nothing is straight, but to the Chamberlins, that is part of the charm.

Chamberlin's curiosity piqued when he realized one section was 11 feet shorter than the other. After measuring and re-measuring, he discovered a secret chamber above the dining room. The space was empty with the exception of a large brick fireplace. The concern was there was no support for the heavy fireplace and no one is quite sure why it hadn't yet crashed through onto diners below. Chamberlin deconstructed the fireplace but upcycled the bricks by creating a pathway in a meditation garden along the river at the rear of the building.

Above: The Dominion Hotel is 160 years old Inset: Shawn Chamberlin and his wife Elli. *Photos by Susan Tromanhauser.*

At the age of 160, many assume the Dominion is the oldest establishment in Canada. A building in Newfoundland holds the distinction of oldest pub, but the Dominion can claim the oldest continuous running hotel in the country.

The birth of the Dominion Hotel coincided with the presidency of Abraham Lincoln and the onset of the American Civil War. The Chamberlins find it ironic during this time period the colonies were beginning talks to form the Confederation of Canada, in part to avoid being forced to join the U.S.

The hotel was originally on the other side of the street until a liquor inspector informed the first owner the Dominion Hotel was located on the dry side of Bobcaygeon Road. Government red tape caused a delay, but within a few years it was relocated to its current location to comply with liquor laws. There was no Brewers Retail or LCBO during the time period; instead, a wagon would arrive on an unpredictable schedule. Chamberlin tells a story that when the wagon, by chance, arrived in time for New Year's Eve, the patrons stayed until all the liquor was gone – drinking day and night well into the first week of January.

Chamberlin concedes many of the stories may just be rumours, like one the place is haunted. While he won't say he believes in ghosts, Chamberlin does admit to seeing unexplained things. One night, playing the piano as his form of relaxation after a long evening of hospitality, he was startled to hear a woman's voice singing along. "It scared the hell out of me. It was the middle of winter – 1 a.m. and I was the only one" in the place. Was it a friend playing a prank? The experience has never been explained. The woman's voice has returned with Chamberlin playing old standards and the unexplained voice singing beautifully, knowing all the words – even the ones Chamberlin himself doesn't know.

Chamberlin is quick to point out most of the Dominion Hotel stories are anecdotal and very little is documented. People did not deem it important enough to write down, but Chamberlin's opinion differs, as the patrons of the Dominion were the real people of history. It is important to Chamberlin to "pay homage to those who have walked before."

Chamberlin has many more stories to tell of 160 years of the Dominion in Minden. He will be speaking Aug. 7 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre starting at 5 p.m.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Switching gears on EVs

By Mike Baker

Over the past couple of years, I've changed the way I think about electric vehicles (EVs). So much so that I've done a complete U-turn on wanting to own one.

When the Tesla Roadster burst onto the scene in 2010, I dismissed the EV concept as the latest fad doomed to fail. Similar to ill-fated ideas like curved and 3D televisions or Amazon's Fire Phone, the cars were exponentially more expensive than alternatives that did a similar thing. Or so my young brain thought.

I just couldn't get my head around paying upwards of $100,000 for a utility – let's face it, that's what a vehicle is – when I could get something maybe not as good, but that does the same job, for a fraction of the price.

As more car manufacturers dipped their toes into the EV market, my stance softened. Today, brand new models are available for around $50,000. Yes, they're still more expensive than those that run internal combustion engines, but the list of negatives I've long used to bash EVs has dwindled away.

I recently interviewed Steve Lapp, an Ontario-based EV consultant whose experience in the industry dates back to the 1980s. I'm not sure about you, but it was certainly news to me that the first commercial EV available in Canada, General Motors' EV1, was released in 1996. It had a short run, largely due to its driving range, which, on a full battery, was less than 200 kilometres. That wouldn't have gotten me to-and-from work without a charge in between.

Technology has advanced lightyears since then – new models are marketed at being able to do between 400 and 500 kilometres per charge but can often go more. There's also been a radical increase in the number of public charging stations across Ontario – for a fairly nominal fee, people can park their EVs at thousands of spots, juice up, and be on their way within 20 minutes.

Lapp said he's owned two EVs since 2012. He claims to have saved over $10,000 in fuel and another five figures in maintenance. Essentially, over time, the cars have paid for themselves when compared to the costs associated with running a regular motor.

By plugging in his vehicle overnight, he estimates a full charge runs approximately $2.10. Compare that to a full tank of gas, which for most large sedans or SUVS can run $60-$100, it's easy to see how the savings mount up. Now, battery repairs can get expensive – thousands of dollars if a full replacement is needed, but that's manageable when you consider the overall savings operating an EV.

There's also a wider social benefit to owning and running an EV. Natural Resources Canada estimates the average Canadian vehicle releases about 4,600 kilograms of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year. EVs? Zero emissions. At least when it comes to using them. The overall footprint depends on the source of electricity used to charge it, but the impacts are negligible compared to regular cars.

Climate change is a very real thing – we see evidence of it with every heatwave and ice storm that rips through our community. Being a new parent, addressing this global issue has become far more important today than it was yesterday. At least for me.

The federal government has mandated that all new light-duty vehicle sales must be zero-emission cross-Canada by 2035. In 2024, approximately 264,000 EVs were sold, accounting for 13.8 per cent of all new vehicle sales. We've got a lot of ground to make up over the next 10 years.

Want to learn more about EVs? Lapp will be at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Aug. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., providing information on life cycles and costs and debunking the many myths surrounding EV ownership.

SAWDUST STORIES

Laying the foundation

By Darren Lum

We learn a lot through other peoples' stories.

They can inspire. They can give us reason for hope. They can be an example of what is possible.

As a man in his forties with a 20-plus year career in journalism, I have told many thousands of stories.

Now, it's time I share my own through the series Sawdust Stories that depicts my efforts to work in the trades industry.

I'm more comfortable with a camera and a notepad than a hammer and a tape measure. It's part of the mind shift I've had to make in the first weeks of being an apprentice for the Haliburton Crew, a County-based construction company.

Before, I worked towards weekly deadlines, interviewing, writing stories and taking photos.

Now, I'm doing anything and everything that needs to be performed wherever I'm needed, such as help to complete a custom-built home on a lake in Highlands East, whether it's painting, sanding, or sorting through material and organizing them into discard or use collections.

Although I valued being able to share the many residents' stories in the pages of the *Haliburton County Echo* and the *Minden Times*, which was about building the community, there is a similar feeling of seeing my efforts realized towards setting a place that a family can call a home.

When you're at a construction site you can't hide from the elements.

Dressing (or bringing extra clothing) for every kind of weather is part of the deal. It takes me back to my dogsledding guide days from the two previous winters. (The physicality of being a guide was a benefit for my transition to the endurance and stamina required at a job site.)

There is humidity, the strong sun, rain showers and bugs. Lots of bugs. Many blackfly bites are part of it and the accompanying swollen spots. Taking everything as it comes is part of the experience, which includes the attributes of a work site in cottage country where breathtaking views at the lake are likely.

Unless you're in education and healthcare, getting full-time work is difficult here in the Highlands, but the trades industry is growing and in need of workers. Over the next 10 years with many skilled trades workers set to retire, there will be a higher demand to replace these workers and I'd like to be part of the cadre of up-and-comers needed to fill this expected void.

Discomfort gives birth to growth and stagnation is where the soul dies, yearning for change.

It would have been easy to stay with a career that was good to me, but growth comes from discomfort and nothing changes when you don't, so here I am, learning everything I can, everyday.

Seeing the long-term potential of a career in trades is what brings me to this new ambition, and is something I will share in a series of stories I plan to write that will depict my experience as an apprentice over the next three years.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Leave landfill attendants alone

Dear editor,

This letter is directed, primarily, to the Industrial Park landfill attendants who were the targets of Susan Lee's remarkable complaint about a noise issue at what some of us still call "the dump."

Please don't change a thing about how you conduct yourselves. I have had frequent dealings with the staff of both the Haliburton facility and the West Guilford location and have found that, to a person, these individuals are helpful, hardworking, good humoured and creative.

I would challenge Ms. Lee to find one other person who doesn't thoroughly appreciate the virtual welcome mat that is set out for all of us through the seasonal decorations around the respective offices and the wonderful music at the Haliburton site.

Who can't revel in listening to the Beach Boys, Willy Nelson or Blue Rodeo during the 10 minutes or so we visit the dump every couple of weeks? What is considered a chore by some becomes a short, pleasant outing where the staff care. Is this disturbing the neighbours? Of course not. One only has to look at Google maps to see that the only close neighbours are a very, very long way away.

I do agree with Ms. Lee that there is a serious need for a strong, enforceable noise bylaw that those of us in residential areas can utilize instead of the current, ridiculous 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. version.

Surely though, a reasonable person can see that the music at the dump is a generous effort to make an otherwise tedious trip just a bit more fun.

Sean Pennylegion
Haliburton

Don't stop the music

Dear editor,

Re: Resident says she got no satisfaction over noise at dump

In response to the resident complaining about the 'noise' at the dump, my opinion is that the music is a welcome addition to the site, a positive distraction from the chore of tending to my garbage.

I find myself humming, and sometimes sing along, and on occasion even stepping lively to an upbeat tune as I sort my recyclables and travel from the household bins to the metal and construction zones.

It's invigorating, adds a bit of pleasure to a mundane task, and not at all what I would label as being loud, but rather 'vibrant' and very enjoyable.

I particularly enjoyed the music focusing on Canadian performers in the timeframe before and after Canada Day: 'Elbows Up'.

I'd be very disappointed if the music stopped.

Sharon Petrini
Haliburton

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Ray Kidon sent in this picture of a Turkey Vulture sitting on their gazebo on Little Bob Lake.

Rock on, man

Dear editor.

I find it hard to believe that someone would spend the time and energy to complain about a local radio station being played at the Haliburton dump.

If it bothers Susan Lee that much, go to another dump like West Guilford.

Just because rock music is not her cup of tea, why should things change that everyone else [enjoys].

I personally like the music and say pump it up.

A shout out to all the guys that work there.

Rock on, man.

Dean Buchinski
Haliburton

Review boundaries

Dear editor,

I have requested that Haliburton County, Minden Hills and Highlands East consider conducting a specific municipal service review on the southern half of Snowdon Township in Minden Hills.

I am convinced it will eventually lead to this area being transferred to Highlands East, along with the corresponding tax dollars.

Highlands East has proven for years it is better situated, better managed and better equipped to provide the municipal road maintenance in the area. And, most of the taxpayers use landfill sites in Highlands East already.

It would also give Highlands East full ownership of the Irondale River, from Wilbermere Lake near Wilberforce to near Kinmount.

Highlands East tries very hard to maintain and promote their current section of the river, while Minden Hills does nothing. Maintaining, restoring and promoting the river as a canoe and kayak destination would benefit the entire area.

Lastly, Countywide amalgamation seems too far away, but these types of smaller service reviews can, and will, push positive change.

The review would result in lower annual tax hikes by being in Highlands East versus Minden Hills, with better maintained roads, quicker fire response, one municipality looking after Salerno Lake and the Irondale Community Centre. It's owned by Minden Hills but located in Highlands East.

My driveway is the boundary, so I see the road crews and snow removal done by each, and which municipality responds the quickest. Minden is 25-30 minutes away; Gooderham is 10 minutes away. There would be a 40-minute service savings in municipal costs for every single municipal visit to this area. That represents significant cost savings over a year.

Highlands East does the road maintenance now on over two-thirds of the Old Irondale Road, and Salerno Lake Road. Give them the other one-third instead of turning their vehicles around.

Jeff Hancock
Irondale, Ontario

Bell woes

Dear editor,

I am 92 years old and my wife is 90 and not well - and we don't have phone service.

My nearest neighbour is five kilometres away.

I reported the outage July 26. The person told me Bell does not work on weekends; yet a serviceman came out to my neighbour, but could not fix the problem.

I was told a service person would be here July 31 but no one showed up. However, they did come to my neighbour.

My son got concerned since he could not reach us and phoned Bell. He was told someone had canceled our service request and that someone would be out Aug. 2. A serviceman came on Saturday, spent all morning, and told us the problem was in the terminal box at Sandy Cove, and it would be another week before we can get service.

We have complained about this terminal for 10 years but Bell will not replace it. I have had five service calls this year. How can I possibly call 911 without a phone?

William Beatty
Drag Lake

Milkweed

Dear editor,

I promised myself I would refrain from writing yet another letter to the editor, but my overwhelming disgust at the sight of shredded milkweed on the side of the roads has spurred me on.

It seems that most of the municipalities in Haliburton County have decided to mow down the so-called weeds on the side of local roads. I prefer to call them wildflowers. Monarch butterflies are an endangered species. They only lay their eggs on milkweed. The caterpillars only eat milkweed. I have only seen three Monarch butterflies so far this summer. That is a drastic decline from previous years. Milkweed plants prefer to grow on dry sandy soil, such as that found on local roadsides.

If you can't see around the corners on the local roads, slow down.

Janet Bradley
Haliburton

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Highlander news

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Geocaching mega event

Highlands East plans to be front and centre at Fall Fest 2025 in Burford, Ontario this September – the only geocaching mega event in Canada this year.

Economic development coordinator Michele Little told a recent council meeting Fall Fest 2025 is Sept. 25-28 and had registrants from five Canadian provinces, 20 U.S. states, and three international countries.

"This is an excellent event to promote to an international group of geocachers, who may not be aware that there is a long standing GeoTour available just a few hours north of the area," Little said of Highlands East.

Council gave the green light for Highlands East to be an event sponsor, as well as attend with its mascot, Tupper T. Turtle.

Little said it would cost $675.

She added former economic development coordinator Joanne Vanier and a companion have offered their time as volunteers to attend the event and promote the Geocaching Capital of Canada.

Little said in reviewing the most recent financial statement for the economic development department, there are available monies that can be utilized towards the promotion of the event.

Road assumption

The township will adopt the previously-unassumed Studio Lane - on a municipal right of way - in the township.

Property owners asked the municipality to take it on for year-round maintenance.

Council heard from junior planner, Kim Roberts, who said one of the residents, Erik Goransson, wants to do the work himself to bring the road to standard.

Roberts said Studio Lane is accessed just south of Gooderham from Contau Lake Road, and is approximately 575 metres in length.

Roberts added both Glamorgan and Highlands East councils have received requests to consider maintenance on this road in the past. She said staff had reviewed a resolution from 2002 requiring the owner at the time, Mr. Briggs, bring it to standard before the assumption. A request was also brought in 2018 and council requested staff review and update on a proposed assumption.

This time, though, she said Goransson would be responsible for bringing the road to municipal standard, after which time three private landowners would transfer their ownership to the municipality.

She added, "the proponents have advised that this work would be at their own expense."

She said the municipally-maintained road would service four properties with frontage on Studio Lane.

She added the motivation for the request is a zoning pre-consultation from Goransson to be permitted to operate his heavy machine repair shop on his property; which requires frontage on a maintained road.

Council did set five conditions.

(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

ADVERTORIAL

Natural gardens with a more formal look

I love what you're doing with native plants, but I don't want a wilderness right outside my front door.

That's a comment which might come from a potential new client. Nature, while providing ecological services, doesn't always look as neat as we are accustomed to with traditional gardens. And native plants, which have evolved to serve the rest of the ecosystem, don't necessarily have the large blooms and reliable structure we've bred into their cultivated cousins.

So how can we bridge the gap between formal, traditional landscaping and naturalistic designs using native plants?

First, location matters. A design in a prominent position near the cottage could be different from one further away. We can use "cues to care" in areas we see everyday. Paths, neat edges, and signs of maintenance all indicate some degree of intentionality.

At this stage, it's wise to have a reality check about garden maintenance. Studies in Germany show how some designs require more management than others, so we need to consider whether we have the time and expertise to maintain the formal landscape we're installing.

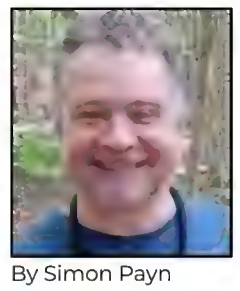
For example, a traditional formal border - the kind you would see in an English country garden - might look wonderful near your cottage, but to keep it looking good requires a lot of time and expertise. The German study shows that this kind of design takes about five times as much effort to maintain as the two designs I'm going to show you next.

The question is, do you have the time and expertise to maintain it, or the budget to hire someone to do it for you?

Instead, here are two designs I think bridge the gap between formal and low maintenance: block plantings, and matrix plus accents.

Block by block

Block plantings are large areas of a single species, as the name suggests. These blocks are repeated across the design. The rhythm and repetition create a sense of coherence. The design makes management easier, because you know what to do with each element in the design. For example, you would cut back dead grasses in spring. And unlike a monoculture (such as a lawn), the design still includes a variety of plants to keep wildlife happy.



By Simon Payn

Into the matrix

The matrix plus accents design uses a selection of perhaps three groundcover species to anchor the layout. Then, the design is punctuated by plants that serve as focal points. In a sunny garden, you might choose a grass such as Little Bluestem as the matrix, then add blocks of plants such as Lanceleaf Coreopsis as focal points. A shaded area might use one or two sedges or violets as the matrix, with some shrubs as focal points. Maintenance would revolve around keeping the matrix neat and tidy - a job that doesn't require much time or expertise.

Plant choice matters, too. Stress-tolerant plants, which establish slowly and don't try to take over, will make it easier to keep the design looking coherent. While you might not get instant results, you won't be fighting a battle to keep your landscape looking neat.

I like to think of these areas as gateways. They're not only gateways to your cottage, but they're also gateways to naturalistic design. Maybe for your next project you'll have a layout with a more natural feel, helping to integrate your landscape with the wider world.

The rules to all this are simple. Show intentionality through cues to care. Select a simple palette of plants and repeat them throughout the design. Make sure your plants play nicely with each other.

Then you'll have a landscape that looks like you want it to look without giving yourself a maintenance headache.

Simon Payn is the owner of Haliburton-based natural garden company, Grounded. To find out more, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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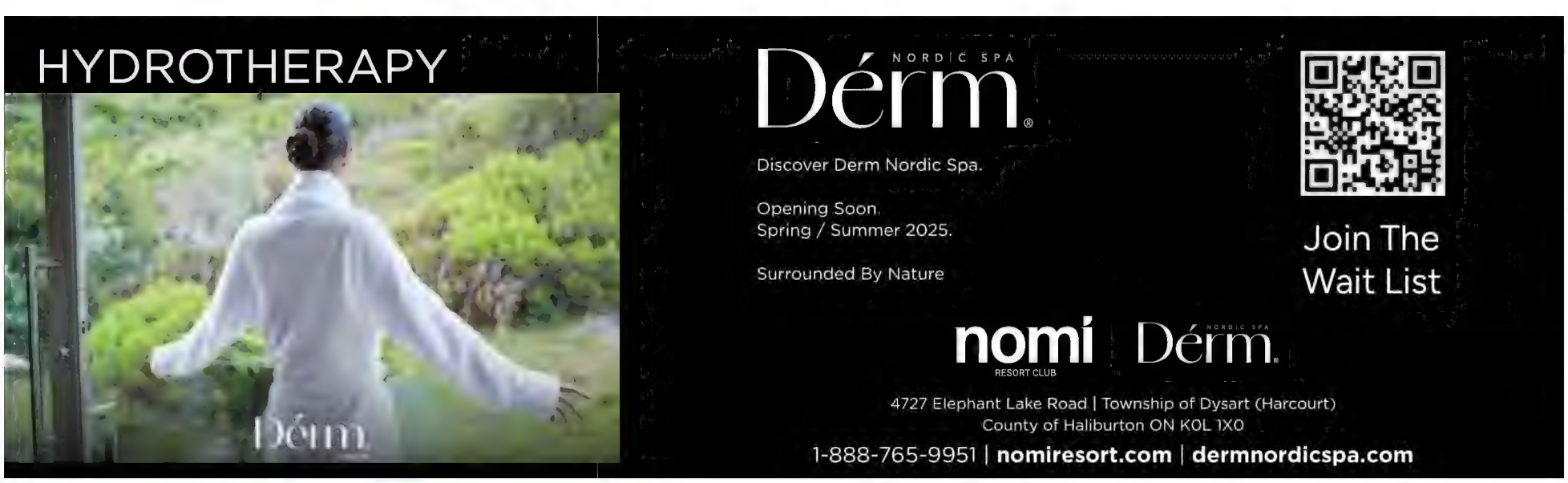
GARDENING FOR LIFE

Highlander arts

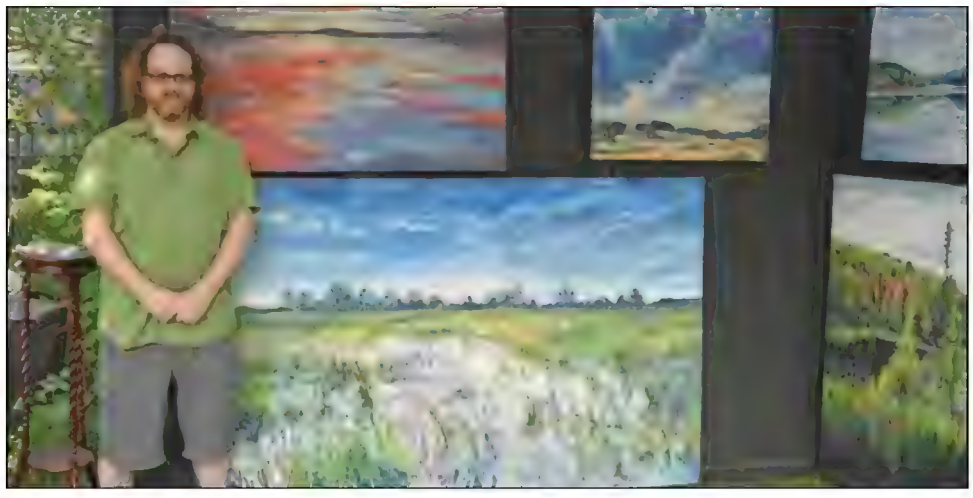
School's in for summer

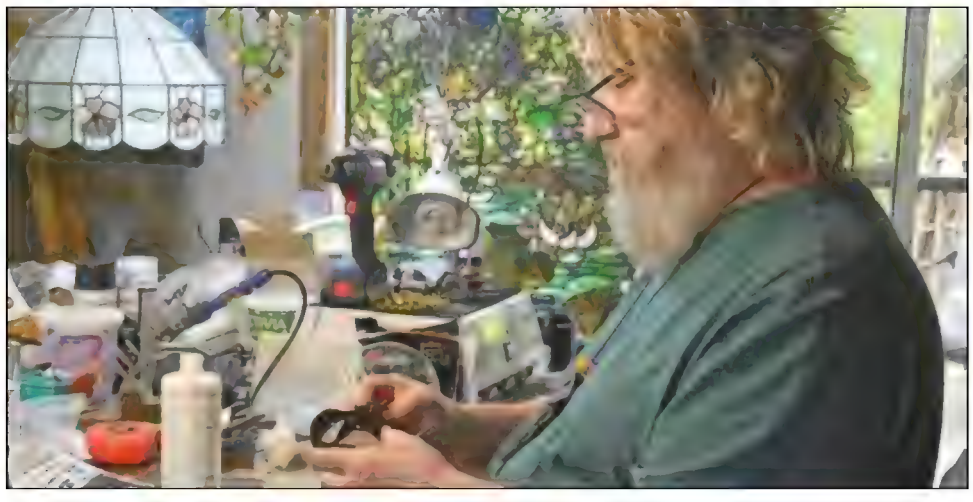
Ten artists joined April Gates for her annual Schoolhouse Pop-Up Aug. 2-3. Gates, of Blackbird Pottery, located at the Donald Schoolhouse, said this year's event featured a curated selection of artists and makers from the Haliburton Highlands and neighbouring counties, welcoming a spectrum of creative mediums. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Top: April Gates with customers, Mona Scrivens and Gary Sullivan. Bottom left: Ruthie Cummings with customer, Karen McCallum. Bottom middle: Noelia Marziali surrounded by her work. Bottom right: Rod Prouse paints plein air. *Photos by Wendy Evenden.*



Highlander arts





Artistic diversity and skill

Cottagers, tourists and locals visited the galleries of creatives across Haliburton County this past weekend. The Tour de Forest Summer Studio Tour, in its 19th year, featured 20 artists at 11 studios. It ran Aug. 2-3. The tour is a celebration of the Highlands artistic diversity and skill. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Left: Barbara Hart with one of her artworks. Top right: James Goodliff with his paintings. Bottom right: Tom Green works at his Glass Eagle Studio. *Photos by Wendy Evenden.*

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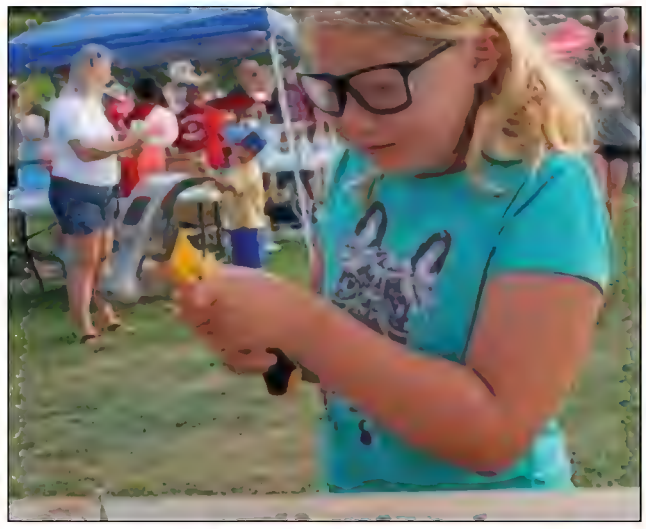
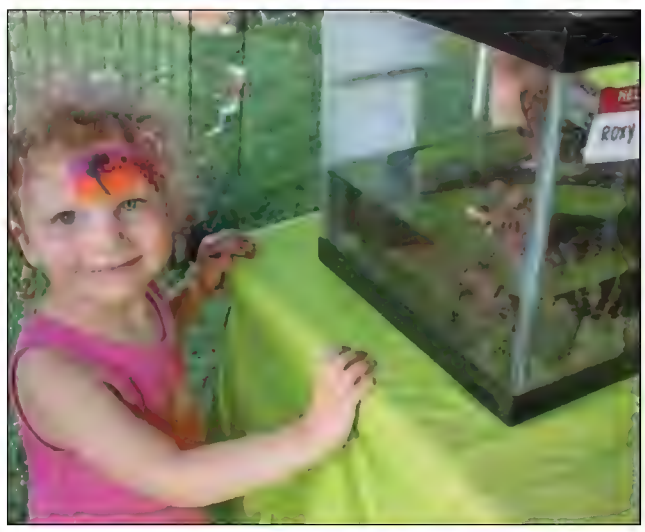
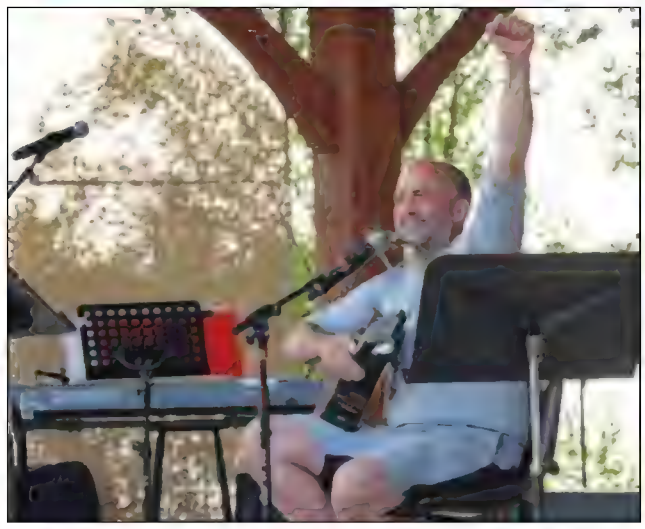
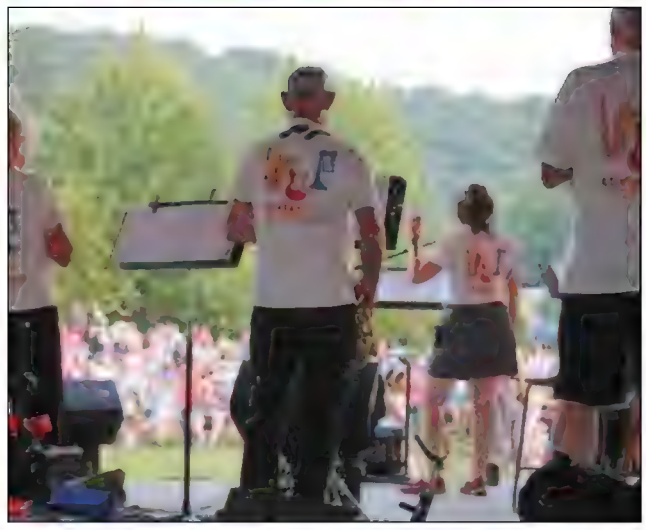
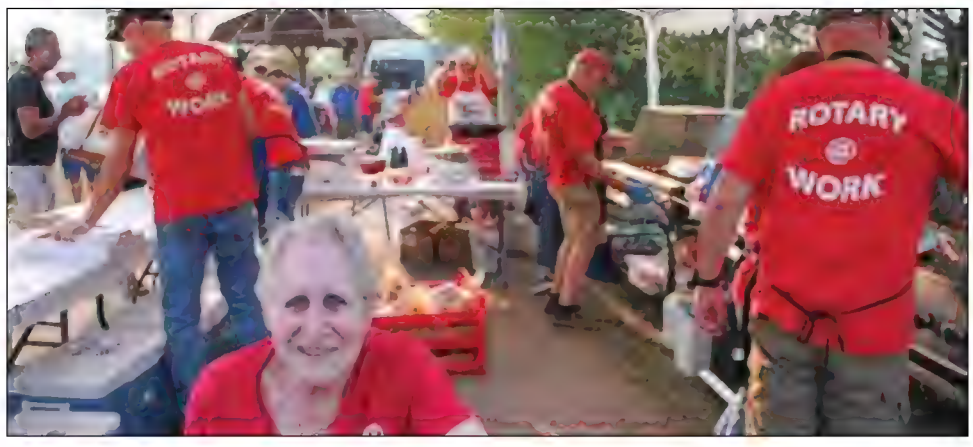
Highlander community











Wasn't that a party?

Haliburton Rotary Summerfest attracted large crowds to Head Lake Park Aug. 6. The event had a little bit of everything; free children's activities, cotton candy, popcorn, ice cream, Rotary's famous beef on a bun and hot dogs. There were Re/Max hot air balloon rides, animals, Tom Oliver and Adverse Conditions on stage, and, of course, the Rotary car draw, with this year's winner being Barbara Varty of Haliburton.

Top left: Henry George plays a game in the park. Top centre: Yuval and Stav Kazes follow a tortoise. Top right: Hazel Allder drives a nail at the home builders' booth. Second row left: Bianca Dupras pets a bunny. Second row centre: Everly Knights, 3, meets Roxy, a Dwarf Caiman. Second row right: Elizabeth Dupras gets up close and personal with a slithery friend. Third row left: Charlotte Occhiuzzi and Caroline Melymuk play a game. Third row centre: Tom Oliver has a moment. Third row right: Adverse Conditions hit the stage. Bottom left: Diane Smith and the Rotary team serve up beef on a bun and hot dogs. Bottom right: David Altman, from Adverse Conditions, picks the winner of the Rotary car draw, Barbara Varty of Haliburton. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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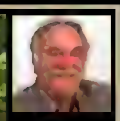

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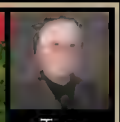
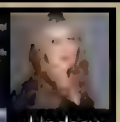
- Newer Renos, Crown Land across lake

NEW LISTING



Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Highway 35 $509,000
- 2 Bed/2 Bath, 1,250 Sqft, 0.76 Acres
- Screened-In Porch, 1.5 Car Garage
- New Workshop, Covered Decks



Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

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- Call me for a market evaluation!

SOLD

Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi** (705) 854-1000
Andrea Wilson** (705) 457-6694

Little Boshkung Lake
- 4 Beds / 3 Baths, 2,221 SqFt, 169ft Frtg
- 25x14 Boathouse, Sunny Southern Exp.
- 940SF Guest Cabin, 26x36 3-Car Garage

NEW LISTING

Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Minden Home $559,000
- 3 bed, 1 bath home w/ significant updates
- Full unfinished lower level & attch'd garage
- Lrg, private property just mins from town

Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

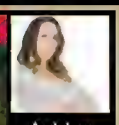
Haliburton Cottage $329,900
- 3 Beds/1 Bath, 654SqFt, 1.15 Acres
- Public Access to Miskwabi Lake Nearby
- Spacious Guest Cabin, Year Round Road

NEW LISTING

Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

Minden Home $695,000
- 3 Beds/2 Bath, 2,100+ SqFt, 3.49 Acres
- Massive Garage/Workshop, Open Cpt
- Private Backyard Pond, 3 Mins to Minden

NEW LISTING



Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Sprucedale Home $499,999
- TWO Fully Equipped Homes on 2.3ac!
- Individual Septic Systems, Lg Deck
- Spacious Garage, Woodshed, Firepit

LEASED

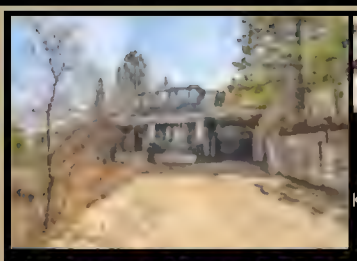
Brandon Nimigon*** (289) 259-1952

Minden Home
- 5 Beds/3 Baths, 2,600 SqFt, 1.5 Acres
- Walkout to a Large, Private Backyard
- 5-Lake Chain Public Boat Launch Nearby

NEW LISTING

Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Kashagawigamog Lake $1,278,600
- Beautifully Updated 3 Bed/2 Bath Ctg
- Spacious Level Lot, 116ft Sand Shoreline
- 480sqft Lakeside Deck, Township Road



Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841
Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Haliburton Home $529,000
- 5 Beds/2 Baths, 1,900 SqFt
- Lg Covered Front Porch, Updated Kitchen
- Attached Garage, Short Walk to Town

NEW LISTING

Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Wilberforce Home $199,000
- 2 Bdrm Cottage Needing Major Repairs
- Wilberforce Handy Man Special
- Across The Road From Wilbermere Lake

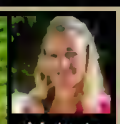
Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Contau Lake $1,495,000
- 3 Beds/2 Baths, 3,300+ SqFt, Post & Beam
- Zoned Heating & Cooling, Lg Heated Shop
- Dtch'd 26'x40' Garage, Oversized Dock

NEW LISTING

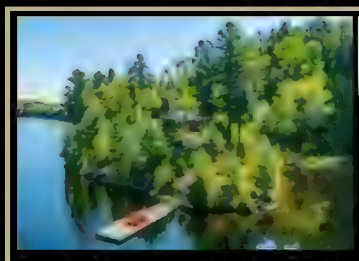
Greg Stamp* (705) 455-2231

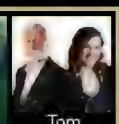
Wigamog Road $699,000
- 4-bed, 2-bath home, separate 2-bed apt
- Attached Double Car Garage, 1.33 Acres
- Fully Finished W/O Bsmt w/ Rec Room



Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Carnarvon Area $649,000
- Lovely 2+den/2 bath home, Att'd Garage
- Open Concept, Cathedral Ceilings
- Full Finished Lower Level, Main Flr Laundry





Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839
Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

Bat (Growler) Lake $2,995,000
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Highlander events

Call For Artwork:
Pump It Up Project

Dysart et al Cultural Resources Committee is calling out to artists to submit 2D visual artwork, either existing or new, to be used as images for vinyl wraps for sewage pumping stations located in the Village of Haliburton.

Award of $400 per artwork selected.
Theme: Nature and the Outdoors.
Submission deadline: Friday, August 22, 2025

Details and link to submission form
www.dysartetal.ca/pumpitup

The Municipality of DYSART ET AL
In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

Questions:
dysartpumpitupproject@gmail.com

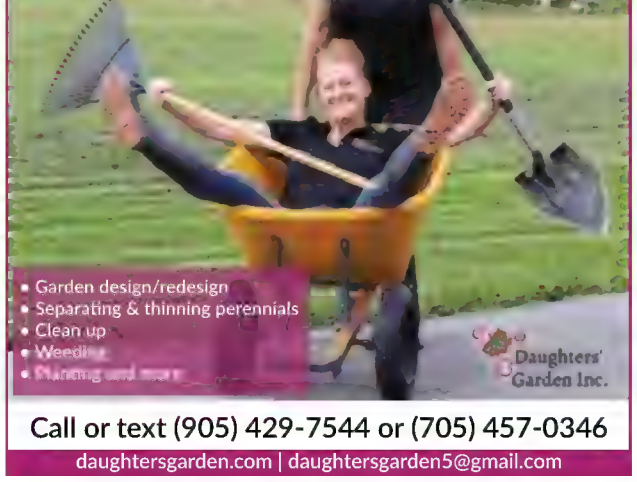
Fun in the sun

The Kushog Lake Property Owners Association held its annual picnic at Spring Valley Resort Aug. 2. Spokesperson Susan Harvey said KLPOA members have been gathering the Civic Holiday long weekend since 1969, although not always at Spring Valley Resort. It was a day of friendly competition, a barbecue, and catching up with family, friends and neighbours.

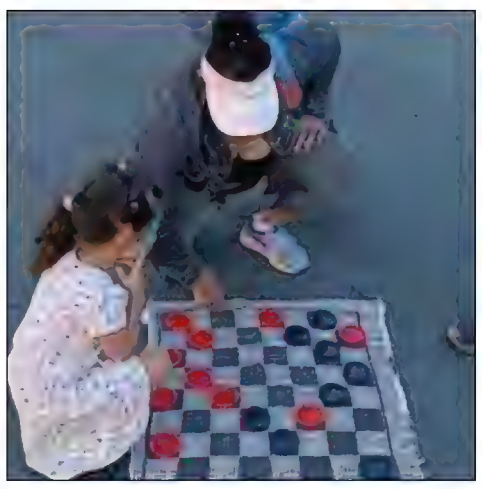
Top left: A young girl prepares to catch a water balloon. Top right: Emelia Kyte gets into the games at the picnic. Middle left: Paulo Goncalvez competes at the KLPOA picnic. Middle right: A water balloon about to drop in Rob Rick's hands. Bottom left: Melissa Alfano of Fluffy Feet Face Painting works on Bailey Purdy. Bottom right: Jere Pike and Judith McNeilage at the prize table. *Photos by Lisa Gervais*

The Great South Lake Pajama Project
Everyone Deserves a Fresh Pair of Pajamas
In 2023 the Webster family wanted to give back to those most vulnerable in the Haliburton Highlands. They collect pj's 365 days a year for all ages and all sizes. In 2024 they gifted 500 pairs of jammies by donation. Everyone deserves a good night sleep and this project partners with nine organizations to gift to those in need.
HOW CAN YOU HELP?
Please contact 705-796-8265 for pick-up or drop off in the Haliburton Highlands. Making change one pair of pajama's at a time.
Thank you for your continued support!
For more information please call: 705-796-8265

STUDIO ART WORKS
FRAMED AND UNFRAMED
Drawings, Paintings and Ceramics by Glena Koehler, BFA 1992, Concordia University, Montreal.
Cash Sales from $50-$200.
Sunday, August 10. Stanhope Community Hall, 1095 N. Shore Road, AH, KOM1J0.
11:30am-4:30pm



Highlander events



Shop 'til you drop

Downtown Haliburton was the place to be this past Friday night as the BIA presented its annual Midnight Madness. There was live music, food, including free banana splits, and fun. Merchants opened their doors late to offer folks after-hours shopping and deals.

Top: Ella and McKayla Keller enjoyed cotton candy generously provided by the Rotary Club of Haliburton. Middle left: Crowds enjoyed Gord Kidd's band. Middle right: Children and youth enjoyed Nine Square, which Youth Unlimited set up. Bottom left: Street games were a popular hit. Bottom right: The Mardus family enjoying all the treats and deals at Midnight Madness. *Photos by Leeanne Young.*

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024043:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Denna Lake, lying in front of 1010 Bunker Lane, located within Part Lot 7 & 8, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
2. **File No. PLSRA2025017:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1014 Orchid Lane, located within Part Lot 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
3. **File No. PLSRA2025018:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1021 Zenith Drive, located within Part Lot 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **August 29, 2025**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than August 29, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

PLSRA2024043

PLSRA2025017

PLSRA2025018

Home of Haliburton Grassroots

MVPS!

Amelia Dawe-Cowen - Girls 7-9 - Kiwi Team

Ava Jones - Coed 4-6 - White Team

Avery Burk - Girls 11-13 - Green Team

Brooks Emmerson - Coed 4-6 - Teal Team

Erin McGregor - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team

Hadley Judson & Carter Ouellette - Girls 10-11 - White Team

Scottie Spooner - Coed - 4-6 - Purple Team

Taylr Boesveld & Madison Duguay - Girls 7-9 - Royal Blue

Summer soccer players aiming for the stars

As these young and passionate athletes hit August and begin the second half of the summer soccer season, the parents, coaches, and supporters on the sidelines are all enjoying the growing sense of camaraderie, effort, and teamwork that is steadily taking root within each unique team.

There is also an increasing amount of fun and lighthearted banter with the opposing teams as the weekly summer match rotation continues, which is helping inspire each player to push themselves further and rise to meet whatever challenge comes their way, whether it is fierce competition on the field or the relentless heat of the summer sun.

These developing pro-stars are beginning to truly understand the value of commitment, as their constant practice, skill-building, and unwavering perseverance are leading to incredible improvements and results on the field.

We could not be prouder of this enthusiastic and talented new generation of soccer players who are putting in the work, showing up with heart, and boldly aiming for the stars. *(Submitted)*

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$197 Bi Weekly

Stingray 172 DC

Yamaha F90 White, Tonneau Cover, Bimini Top, Ski bar, Flip up drivers seat

$213 Bi Weekly

2025 Stingray 182 SC

Yamaha VF115 SHO, Tonneau cover, Bimini Top, Ski Bar, Flip up Bolster seat

$195 Bi Weekly

2025 Stingray 172 DC

Yamaha F90, Tonneau cover, Bimini Top, Ski Bar, Flip up Bolster

$208 Bi Weekly

2025 Stingray 172

Full Windshield, Yamaha VF115 SHO, Tonneau and Bow cover, Bimini top, ski bar, Flip up Bolster Seat

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What's on

Folk society announces concert line-up

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Folk Society has announced the artists it will present in the 2025-26 concert series.

Artistic director Sue Shikaze said, "we are really excited about our line-up. These artists will appeal to a range of musical tastes, with folk, blues, and Celtic influences. Some of the artists are well-established and some are up-and-comers whose talents are sure to take them places."

She added, "we pride ourselves in presenting high-quality performances and introducing our audience to artists that showcase a diversity of great Canadian talent. I think people know folk society shows are a great night of live music, representing a broad range of genres."

The series opens Sept. 27, with Sandra Bouza and her band. "Sandra is a voice of power and passion, with songs that touch your heart and fuel your soul. Performing a mix of folk and rhythm and blues, it will be a concert to remember," Shikaze said.

Bouza was the 2019 winner of the Toronto Blues Society's talent search and was nominated for 2025 contemporary album of the year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards. She has a special connection to the Haliburton Highlands. She participated in the Halls Island Artist Residency on Koshlong Lake, where she wrote most of her latest album, *A Sound in the Dark*.

Mimi O'Bonsawin, performing on Oct. 25, is a contemporary roots singer-songwriter born in Northeastern Ontario. She is mixed French Canadian and Abenaki, a member of Odanak First Nation. "Through her rhythm and story-driven songs, Mimi's music embraces the beauty of the land. The ethereal quality of her music whisks you away with uplifting melodies and introspective lyrics that weave pop sensibilities with acoustic instruments. The layers of percussion and surprising harmonies make you feel the music rather than just hear it," the folk society said.

Minor Gold is just one of five acts announced June 23. *Photo courtesy of Minor Gold Facebook page.*

On Jan. 31, 2026, it's Union Duke, with the folk society saying the band, "is two-fifths country, two-fifths city, and one-fifth whiskey. They have been described as a raucous collision of alt-rock and twang, bringing crowds to their feet with songs from the heart and with an abundance of soaring harmonies, driving rhythm, and infectious enthusiasm."

On April 18, 2026, Minor Gold is coming. "Blending sixth sense harmonies with sun-dappled folk-rock reminiscent of the late 60s and early 70s, Minor Gold are an award-winning duo led by vocalists and guitarists Dan Parsons (Australia) and Tracy McNeil (Canada). With a trademark groove and an undeniable stage chemistry, their music floats you down long desert highways and coastal canyons," the folk society said.

The series wraps up with Jessica Pearson and the East Wind on May 30, 2026. "Like sirens calling from an ancient shore, the haunting three-part harmonies of this trio will bind you in a timeless folkloric spell. Alchemizing roots, classic country, Americana and Celtic soundscapes, the trio spin tales of outlaw heroics, matriarchal power, resistance and resilience, and the unrelenting beauty of becoming who you are," the folk society said.

People can save money by purchasing season tickets at www.haliburtonfolk.com Tickets for individual concerts are also available.

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Call us: (705) 457-4848
Website: www.gardensofhaliburton.ca

GARDENS OF HALIBURTON

What's on

Family fun theme of Wilberforce Fair

By Mike Baker

The biggest little fair around is getting even bigger this year.

The Wilberforce Agricultural Fair returns Aug. 8 and 9 with a refreshed lineup designed to attract more youth and families. The 42nd annual event kicks off Friday with an opening ceremony at 5 p.m. at the Wilberforce Fairgrounds, with activities running into the evening. Nancy Duff, a longtime member of the organizing committee, said there will be lots going on to usher in the weekend.

"The colour guard from the legion will be coming to get us started – this is the first year we're doing an opening ceremony, so we're excited about that. It makes the fair a little more special," Duff said.

Following the opening, the fairgrounds will be abuzz with a petting zoo, live music from Geoff Webber and ball hockey on the tennis courts. At 5:30 p.m., there will be pedal tractor test drives, with a pony pull and cake walk starting at 6 p.m. New this year, there will be things going on at Keith Tallman Memorial Arena – homecraft exhibits, live music, and an antique and classic car show starting at 5 p.m. and bingo at 7 p.m.

Gates open Saturday morning at 9 a.m. There will be a fresh face greeting guests throughout the day – Tianna Hall, the Wilberforce fair's first-ever ambassador.

"It's something a lot of fairs do, but we never have. This is our first stab at it, but we couldn't have picked a better representative," Duff said.

Hall has been attending the fair for her entire life. Moving to Wilberforce permanently with her family a couple of years ago, the 16-year-old hasn't been shy getting involved in things throughout the community.

"She's volunteered at the fair the past two summers, she's helped out with the Penny Raffle, where she did face painting this year, she's been a waitress at the dinner theatre for the Loop Troupe, attends all the events at the curling club – any opportunity to help her community, she's been there," Duff said, noting Hall will receive a $500 bursary for the annual commitment, which includes attendance at other events in the district.

There's no shortage of things to enjoy Saturday – the morning features include pony rides and petting zoo, painting demonstrations by Luann Coghlan, scarecrow building contest, nail driving competition, youth corn hole tournament, pedal tractor pull, sheep shearing demo, and a magic show by Pockets the Clown.

The afternoon includes an adult corn hole tournament, light and heavy horse draws, a pie-eating contest at the curling club and family dinner at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre.

"We're keeping things fresh and exciting – we think the fair will have a whole new feel, so come on out and enjoy," Duff said.

Admission for the entire weekend is free for all children 16 and under, with no charge for adults on Friday. Entry will cost $7 on Saturday. For more information, visit wilberforcefair.com.

The 42nd annual Wilberforce Agricultural Fair returns Aug. 8 and 9. *File.*

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Upcoming events: Drum circle Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. Aug. 11, 18 and 25. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are at 2 p.m. Aug. 13, 20 and 27, cost is $4 per person.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

EVENTS

Aug. 7, 5 to 6:30 p.m. As part of its Community Heritage Series, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre welcomes Shawn Chamberlin who will present the history and stories from 160 years of the Dominion Hotel. All ages welcome. Admission by donation.

Aug. 8, 11 a.m. Highland Hills United Church in Minden is participating in a special service of apology to the LGBTQ+ community. The United Church of Canada will offer an historic apology for ways in which the denomination has hurt and harmed the LGBTQ+ community. A livestreamed service will be aired from Knox United Church in Calgary, with people welcome to tune in in-person at Highland Hills, or attend via Zoom - united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5bmmHb7SXqiSDA_83RONw#/registration.

Aug. 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Environment Haliburton! is hosting an electric vehicle show at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS), featuring guest speaker Steve Lapp. Learn more about EVs, charging stations and more. For more information, contact Susan Hay at 705-457-9239.

Aug. 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Get out and enjoy a great day of art at the Kash Art on the Water event. There are 10 property sites around Lake Kashagawigamog, with 18 vendors showcasing their amazing artisan crafts. Come by boat, car or kayak and visit our artisans at the Bonnieview Inn and nine other properties around the lake. For a full list, visit www.lko.ca.

Aug. 9, 2 to 3 p.m. Want to make poetry without writing a single line? Come to the Teen Blackout Poetry Workshop at the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Using pages from old books, magazines and newspapers, you'll learn how to create powerful poems by blacking out everything except the words that speak to you. No writing experience needed.

Aug. 12, 10 a.m. Free guided walking tours in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest every Tuesday in July and August. Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot, at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to two hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca.

Aug. 14, It's soon time to tee-off: Help a Village Effort (HAVE) Minden is hosting its fifth-annual Ron Reid HAVE charity golf tournament Aug. 14 at Gull River Golf Club in Minden. They've helped build more than 700 wells since 1982. Contact micheleconeybeare@gmail.com or heffer.paul@gmail.com.

Aug. 15, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Stop by the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for family storytime with Jan Coates, an award-winning children's author. She will be reading her picture book *Sky Pig*, a heartwarming and humorous story perfect for young children. No registration required.

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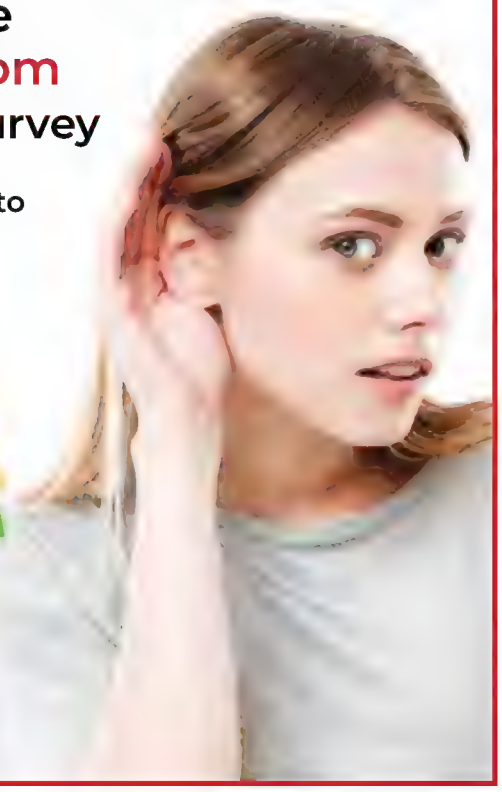

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

AUG 7 - AUG 13 this week

Thursday Aug 7

Boshkung Brewing Live Music, 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

Friday Aug 8

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Erin Blackstock, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Chad Ingram, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday Aug 9

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Will Surphlis, 12 p.m.-3 p.m

Boshkung Smokehouse, Woody Woodburn, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Chris Smith, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday Aug 10

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Gerald Van Halteran, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Tuesday Aug 12

Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radio Bingo & dinner, 6 pm

Music in the Park, featuring Jeff Moulton & Friends, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Aug 13

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Gord Kidd & Friends, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wing Wednesday!

DO YOU THROW EVENTS?

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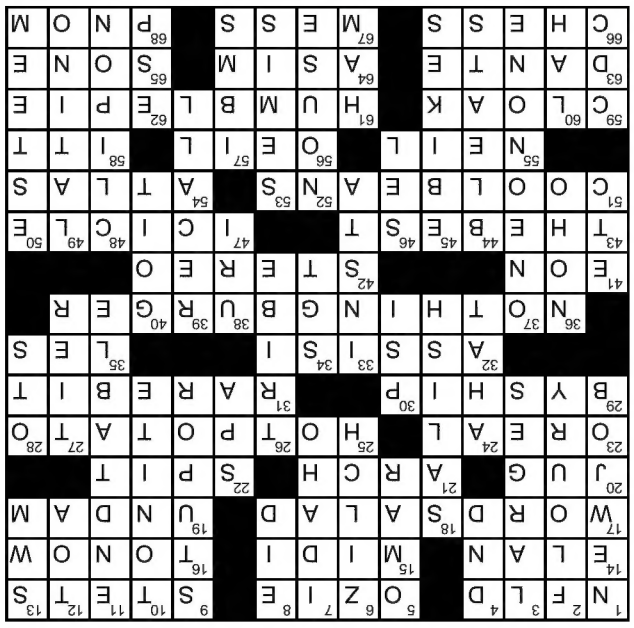
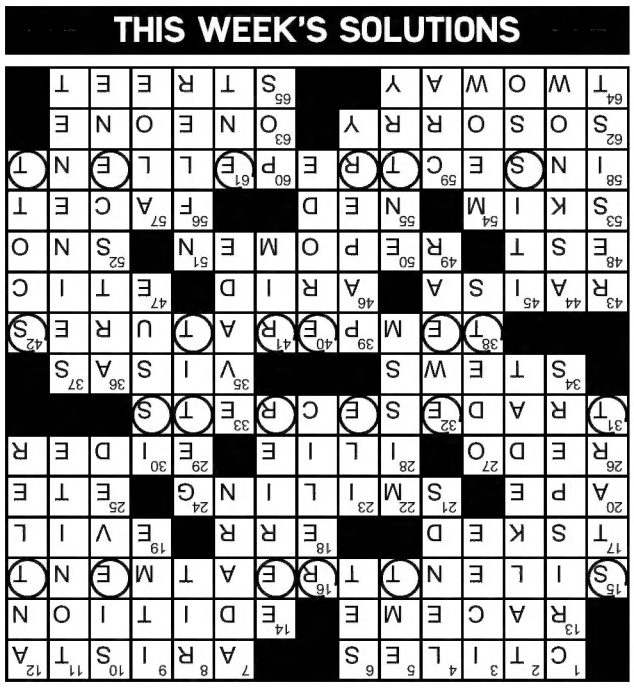
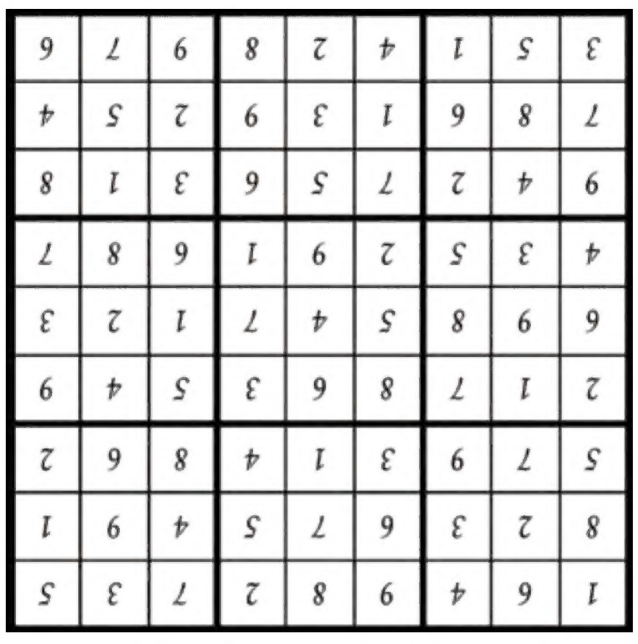


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for Two (2)

Administrative Clerks

Reporting to the Executive Assistant, the Administrative Clerk provides a range of clerical and administrative support such as preparing meeting materials, taking minutes, maintaining filing systems in accordance with our records management program, maintaining accurate scheduling and calendar management.

This position reports to the County of Haliburton Administration Office, Monday - Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm, 35 hours per week. The 2025 hourly rate for these unionized CUPE 1960 positions is $26.09 and includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and comprehensive, employer paid extended healthcare benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **4:30pm on August 15, 2025**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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EVENT

EVENT – KARATE CLASSES – NEED 10 MORE PEOPLE TO FILL THE CLASS - starting September 2nd in Minden for all ages. Tuesday & Thursday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 7th Dan Black Belt Instructor. Contact Ron at 705-286-3823 (July 31, Aug 7) Ron Nesbitt

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

NOTICE

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21.
For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

OBITUARY

In Loving Memory

Dorothy Thayer
(née Henwood)

Resident of Haliburton

With deep love and fond remembrance, the family of Dorothy Helen Thayer announces her peaceful passing, surrounded by family, on July 27, 2025, at the age of 94.

Born on November 1st, 1930, in Hamilton, Ontario, Dorothy was the eldest of two children born to Leslie Garnet and Hazel Olive Henwood. After graduating from McMaster University, Dorothy began her teaching career at Haliburton County District High School in 1953. In 1954, she married fellow teacher George Harold "Bud" Thayer, pausing to raise a family before returning to teach students at both Archie Stouffer and JD Hodgson elementary schools.

Leaving Presbyterian roots behind her, Dorothy joined her husband in attending St. George's Anglican Church, which she made her lifelong home of worship. Dorothy's strong Christian beliefs were lived out through her kindness, generosity, and the endless patience she showed in loving, raising, and giving wings to her five children. Known for her warmth and wit, Dorothy travelled the world but always returned to Haliburton, a community where she was deeply rooted and served with joy. She devoted time to the St. George's prayer shawl ministry, volunteered at 4Cs, and hosted Bible studies and creative devotions.

Over the years, Dorothy delighted in time spent with family and friends. She loved playing bridge, and was a passionate quilter, sewer and connoisseuse of fabrics. Her ferocious Scrabble game was legendary. Her home was open to all, whether friends, family, or visitors from abroad.

Dorothy was predeceased by her husband, Bud Thayer; her brother Don Henwood (Lyn); and her sister-in-law Doris Greer (Fred). She is survived by her children: George (Judy); John (Lorraine); Marilyn (Bob); Mark (Barb); Kirk (Nancy), and her nephews: Joe, Tim, Jim, and Dave, their spouses and children. She is also remembered by her grandchildren: Justin (Anna); Laura (Terral); Stephen; Ben (Julie); Daniel; Emily (Keith); Becky; David; Sam; Sarah (Kirk); Carter; Carson; and many cherished great-grandchildren.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 for a visitation celebrating Dorothy's life from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Friday, August 1, 2025. **A Funeral Service will be held at ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 617 Mountain St, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0, on Saturday, August 2nd at 10:30 am, the service will also be livestreamed.** As an expression of sympathy, donations in Dorothy's memory can be made to the Haliburton 4C's, St. George's Anglican Church, or a charity of your choice.

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Highlander puzzles

Both Sides Now

by Barbara Olson
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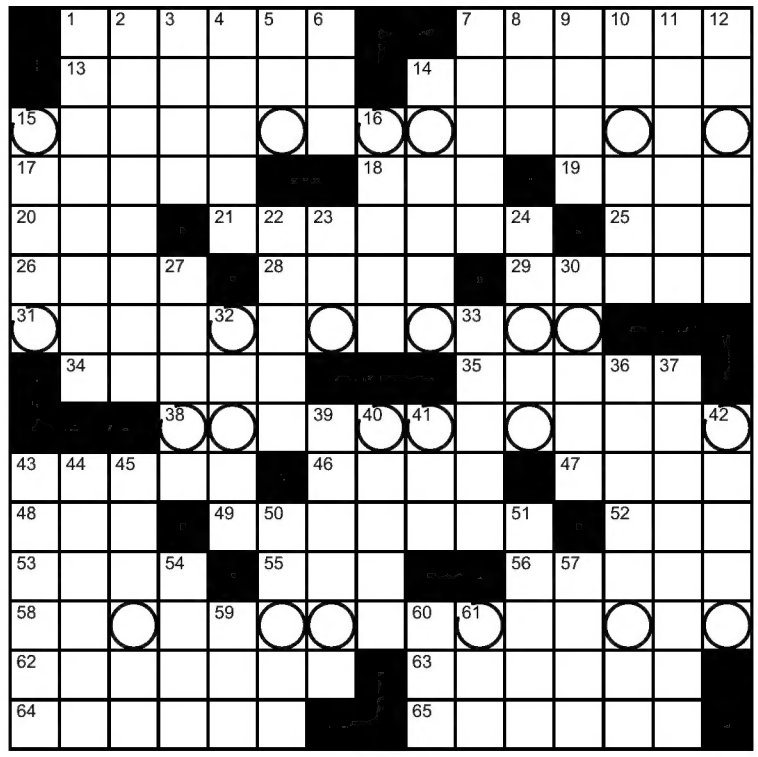

Across

1 Difficult Scrabble pieces to play
7 Whitney Houston's label
13 Hare's challenge to the tortoise, perhaps
14 It might be limited, as a book
15 Refusal to speak to
17 Tut-tutted
18 Get wrong
19 Satanic
20 Hulking galoot
21 Playing the Cheshire Cat, say
25 Juin-septembre season
26 Take from the top
28 Fibber's admission
29 Kind of down
31 Business tricks not to be shared
34 Crock pot comfort foods
35 Some credit cards
38 Under-the-tongue readings
43 Gorbachev's wife
46 Desert-like
47 Suffix with synth- and sympath-
48 Superlative suffix
49 Towers from owers
52 Lead-in to Caps or Cats
53 Opposite of homo, as milk
55 Edward or Edgar, for short
56 Gem side
58 Off!, e.g.
62 "We're ___, Uncle Albert ..." (the McCartney's lyric)
63 Low tie?
64 With 65-Across, situation requiring a give-and-take, and what's shown in the words formed by the circled letters
65 See 64-Across

Down

1 Fridge veggie drawers
2 Addressed without inviting a reply
3 Slurpee kin
4 Gives for a bit
5 Defib user, maybe
6 Actor's workplace
7 Not give ___ (don't care)
8 Slow down, on a score
9 "I relate to that," in memes
10 Used a colander
11 This evening, in adspeak
12 Rutter's butter
14 More goosebump-inducing
15 Board game's first square
16 It's dug up from the past
22 "Divine" Midler
23 ___ de Montréal
24 "Savvy?"
27 "Golden Boy" playwright
30 Time piece?
32 Certain Panasonic cameras
33 Shake off
36 Gallery goings-on
37 Long mesh fish catcher
39 Like Chinese lantern material
40 Chew into
41 Perch for a lemon twist
42 Sir Walter ___
43 Dig in one's heels
44 Psychic reading website
45 "Can't be!" retort
50 Way in
51 N.Y. Jet or Phila. Eagle
54 Persian word?
57 Eczema soother
59 It may await your return: Abbr.
60 Batt. + end
61 Otolaryngologist, briefly

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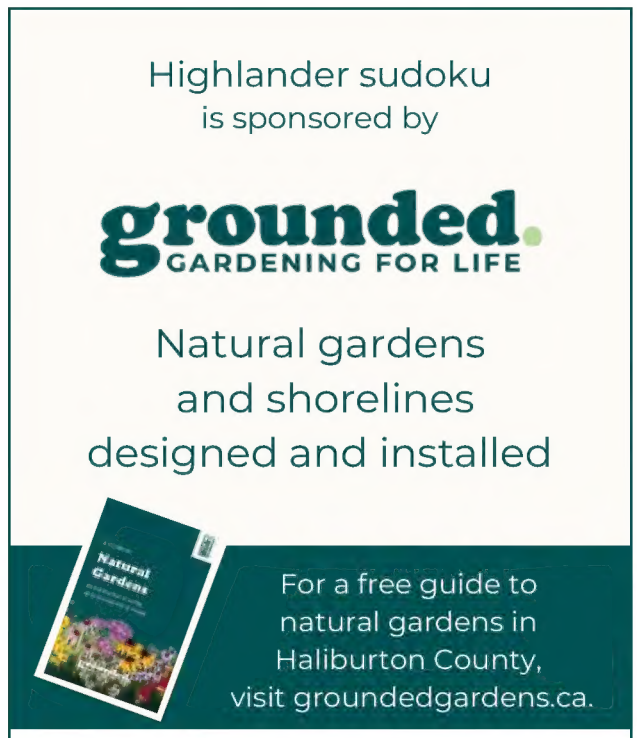

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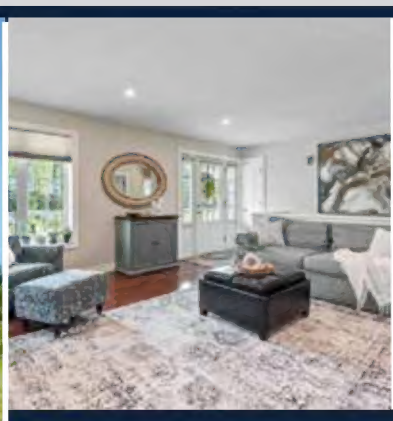

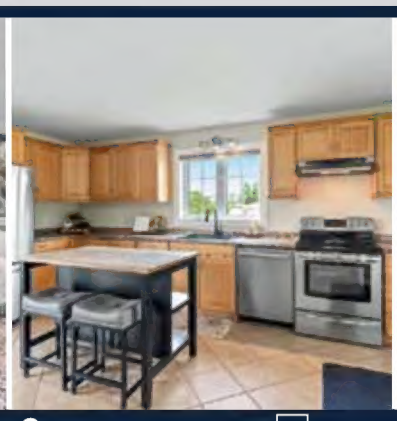

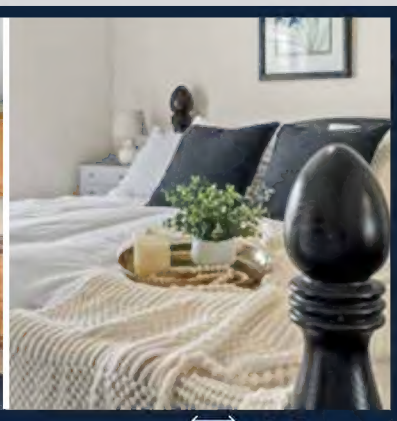

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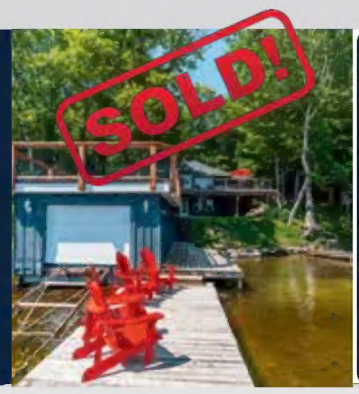
Ritchie Falls Road, Minden

6+2 | 3 | 3+1 | 169ft



$1,995,000
Little Boshkung Lake

3 | 1 | 2

$490,500
Kushog Lake Road

3 | 2 | 2 acres

$685,000
Highway 118

3 acres

$160,000
Loon Lake Road

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Thinking about selling? Let's make your home unforgettable. At the Maxwell Signature Realty Team, we know first impressions matter. Our staging pros bring out the best in every room—so buyers can instantly picture themselves living there. From cozy touches to local flair, we make every detail pop. Ready to stand out and get noticed? Reach out to the Maxwell Signature Realty Team—because your home deserves to shine.

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